

- PCRS is voluntary. Participation in PCRS relies on the willing cooperation of the HIV-infected client and at-risk partners.
- PCRS is client-focused. The needs and concerns of the HIV-infected individual are respected.
- PCRS is available in all confidential and anonymous HIV counseling and testing agencies.
- PCRS is ongoing. PCRS can be routinely offered to all HIV-infected clients as part of their overall care plan.

Can PCRS really work ?

Yes! If you are HIV-infected, you are required by law to inform your sex or needle-sharing partner(s) of your infection before you engage in sexual activities.

Michigan's public health laws govern how PCRS must be conducted by local health departments, and other funded HIV counseling and testing programs. These laws can help HIV infected individuals to carry out their notification duties and help partners to reduce their risk of exposure.

Notification options available through Michigan's PCRS program can offer assistance to make notifying at-risk partners a confidential and safe process.

For more information about PCRS and Michigan laws regarding the program, contact your local health department or the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control at **1-517-241-5900** or www.malph.org or the AIDS Partnership of Michigan (APM) AIDS hotline at **1-800-872 AIDS**.



**Division of Health, Wellness and
Disease Control**
Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director

Let's Talk About It

**PARTNER COUNSELING
&
REFERRAL SERVICES
(PCRS)**

**Protecting Ourselves
Protecting Others
From HIV**



What are the facts?

The majority of HIV infections are spread through having unprotected sex and sharing needles with an infected partner.

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed as having HIV or AIDS, it is important to take steps to help prevent further transmission to others. One way to do this is by participating in Michigan's Partner Counseling and Referral Services Program (PCRS).

What do I need to know about Michigan's PCRS law?

If you are HIV-infected, you are required by law to inform your sex or needle-sharing partner(s) of your infection before engaging in sex or needle-sharing activities.

What is PCRS & what does it offer?

PCRS is a program that can help to notify persons exposed to HIV as a result of their sexual or needle-sharing activity with an infected person. PCRS provides the following help:

- One-to-one confidential counseling to HIV-infected individuals about the importance of identifying and notifying their at-risk partners.
- Assistance to confidentially notify at-risk partners of their exposure.

YOUR NAME WILL NEVER BE REVEALED TO THOSE WHO ARE NOTIFIED.

- Offer at-risk partners an opportunity to discretely test for the presence of HIV antibodies.
- Referral to other medical and support services.

Why should you care about PCRS?

- It's one of the best ways known to help reduce the spread of HIV.
- It's a way to notify persons who may not even know they are at risk for HIV.
- By participating in PCRS, you can make sure your partners know they may have been exposed to HIV. And if they are infected, they can get tested and the education and care they need.

Who provides PCRS?

Assistance with PCRS can be provided by:

- Local Public Health Departments
- Licensed Physicians
- Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Agencies

How are at-risk partners notified?

When providers conduct PCRS they obtain information from the HIV-infected person that will help them to contact any at-risk partners. When contacting at-risk partners, providers will:

- Ensure they are speaking with the correct person to schedule a face-to-face meeting.
- Only notify a partner *in person* to let him or her know of their exposure to HIV, and provide HIV prevention messages.
- Never tell the at-risk partner anything about the HIV-infected person who identified them as a partner.
- Offer confidential or anonymous (*without a name*) testing for HIV antibodies.

What else should you know about Michigan's PCRS program?

- PCRS is confidential. Under Michigan law, providers of the service must protect the privacy of those participating in PCRS. At no time will providers disclose identifying information about the HIV-infected client to the at-risk partner.